

National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
George C. Marshall Space Flight Center  
Marshall Space Flight Center, AL 35812



April 30, 2007

Reply to Attn of: LS01(DMW)

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

FROM: LS01/ William J. Bierbower

SUBJECT: Approval for MSFC Employees with Senior Institutional or Project Responsibilities to Attend an Open House and Cook Out Sponsored by Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne

In accordance with 5 CFR § 2635.204(g)(2) and (3), I make the following determination:

MSFC invitees, accompanied by their spouse or a guest, may attend an open house and cook out to celebrate 30 years of successful support by the Hardware Simulation Laboratory (HSL) to the Space Shuttle Main Engine Program (SSME). The event is sponsored by Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne and will be held at the Redstone Arsenal Rustic Lodge on Wednesday, May 16, 2007. Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne is solely responsible for all management and expense of the event and has indicated that gifts will not be provided for attendees.

This event will be a widely-attended gathering of representatives from the surrounding local communities, MSFC employees, Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne employees, and will consist of a tour of the HSL and a cook out. The event is valued at \$15 per person and over 250 people are expected to attend. I find that the event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 CFR § 2635.204(g)(2).

Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne is a NASA contractor. MSFC personnel invited to attend this event presently, or may in the near future, have extensive involvement in matters relating to Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne. These personnel are similarly situated in that they each have senior institutional or project responsibilities that could significantly influence current or future Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne contracts.<sup>1</sup>

I have determined that free attendance of these senior institutional and project leaders at the event is in the interest of the agency because it will further agency programs and operations. The attendance of MSFC employees at the event will help to raise NASA's profile and will support NASA's statutory mandate to disseminate information about its programs.

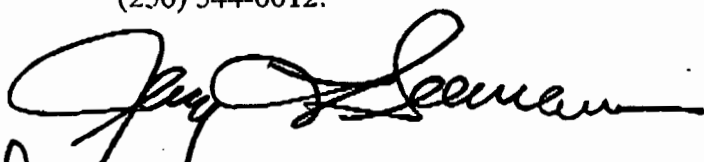
---

<sup>1</sup> Chris Singer, MSFC Engineering Director and Ron Tepoch, Acting SSME Project Manager

Given the purpose of the event, NASA's interest in it, the broad attendance anticipated, and the modest market value of the event, I have determined that the value to the agency in having these senior institutional and project leaders attend this event outweighs any concern that free attendance may or may appear to improperly influence them in the performance of their duties.

Accordingly, MSFC employees in the positions identified above may accept free attendance at the event. They may also accept invitations for accompanying spouses or guests. Free attendance by employees who do not hold senior institutional or project leader duties is addressed in a separate determination.

Questions about this determination may be addressed to Devinti M. Williams at (256) 544-0012.

  
for William A. Bierbower  
Chief Counsel